

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 5 and 6 without prejudice, add new claim 12 and amend claims 1 and 9 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A earring for a pierced ear comprising:
 - (a) a shaft, said shaft being mounted on a base;
 - (b) a connector having a top surface and a bottom surface, a cavity with means for engaging said shaft that fits flush against said pierced ear on said bottom surface and an adapter projecting from said top surface of the connector on the obverse; and
 - (c) a cap having a cavity to receive ~~means for affixing to~~ said adapter on one side and a decorative aspect of the earring attached on the obverse.
2. (Original) The earring according to claim 1 wherein said shaft comprises or is made of a hypoallergenic material.
3. (Original) The earring according to claim 1 wherein said shaft is threaded and wherein said means for engaging said shaft is threaded in said cavity able to receive said threaded shaft.
4. (Original) The earring according to claim 1 wherein said shaft is grooved and wherein said means for engaging said shaft are depressions in said cavity that interlock with said grooved shaft.
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (Original) The earring according to claim 1 wherein said means for affixing to said adapter is a clasping device.
8. (Original) The earring according to claim 1 wherein said adapter is a nipple and said means for affixing said cap to said

adapter is a cavity in said cap comprising a flexible component capable of expanding to receive said nipple and retracting to grasp said nipple when said nipple and said cavity are pressed together.

9. (Currently Amended) The earring according to claim 1 wherein said means for ~~engaging~~ affixing comprises a pin having a flat head extending perpendicularly from the obverse side of said connector; and said cap having a keyhole-shaped slot capable of receiving said pin head.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of wearing an earring for a pierced ear comprising a shaft, said shaft having a base; a connector having a top surface and a bottom surface, a cavity with means for engaging said shaft that fits flush against said pierced ear on said bottom surface and an adapter projecting from said top surface of the connector on the obverse; and a cap having a cavity to receive ~~means for affixing~~ said adapter on one side and a decorative aspect of the earring attached on the obverse comprising the step of:

- (a) inserting said shaft through a pierced ear having a front and a back wherein said base is flush against said back of said ear and said shaft protrudes from said front of said ear;
- (b) affixing said connector onto said shaft by inserting said shaft into said cavity wherein said adapter is positioned away from said front of said ear; and
- (c) affixing said cap to said adapter such that said decorative aspect is positioned away from said front of said ear.

11. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising a plurality of shafts of different lengths each of said shafts being mounted on a base, at least two connectors ~~for engaging said plurality of~~

~~shafts~~ each of said connectors having a top surface and a bottom surface, a cavity with means for engaging said shaft that fits flush against said pierced ear on said bottom surface and, ~~each having an adapter~~ each adapter projecting from said top surface of said connector, and a plurality of caps each of said caps having a cavity to receive said adapter on one side for affixing said cap to said connectors ~~having and~~ a decorative aspect on the obverse.

12. (New) A earring for a pierced ear comprising:

- (a) a shaft, said shaft being mounted on a base having a magnetic charge;
- (b) a connector having a top surface and a bottom surface, a cavity with means for engaging said shaft that fits flush against said pierced ear on said bottom surface and an adapter having an opposite magnetic charge on the obverse; and
- (c) a cap having a means for affixing to said adapter on one side and a decorative aspect of the earring attached on the obverse.